

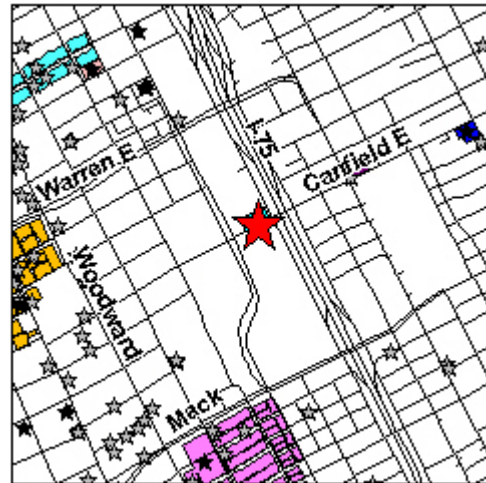
## **St. Josaphat 's Roman Catholic Church Complex**

715 East Canfield.

Local	✓	12/16/83
State	✓	11/26/85
State Marker	✓	4/28/87
National	✓	12/8/82



**St. Josaphat**



### **Historic overview:**

St. Josaphat, started in June of 1889, was organized when St. Albertus could no longer absorb the steady influx of Polish immigrant families into its parish. Unlike Sweetest Heart of Mary, St. Josaphat was not the child of discord but rather the result of a natural increase and shift in the population of Detroit. However, it is possible that there was an ulterior motive for the location of St. Josaphat west of the Grand Truck Railroad Tracks. The creation of St. Josaphat created an alternative parish for Polish Roman Catholics living near Sweetest Heart of Mary.

Under Fr. Razadkowski in the 1890s, the church grew to over 1,000 families, and a new church, rectory and janitor's home were constructed by 1901. The old church became the side altar of St. Anthony. Fr. Lempka, pastor from 1915-1926, helped recruit for the Polish Army during WWI. He was also responsible for the construction of St. Josaphat High School, which was a distinguished institution. By 1960 the ethnic neighborhood that the church once served had relocated, therefore the school was closed. By 1961, the school was demolished and replaced with a parking lot. During the 1960s, St. Josaphat struggled with dwindling membership, an aging structure, and a sprawling medical center nearby. The parish began a building rehabilitation program, and today St. Josaphat continues to serve the Polish community.

St. Josaphat (1580-1623) was archbishop of Polotsk. In 1604 he became a monk and was later ordained as a priest. In 1617 he became archbishop, and began working toward the unification of the Byzantine Church with Rome. St. Josaphat was martyred in 1623 and canonized in 1867.

